



A newsletter for Lions across the V6 District

February 2026

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Public Speaking
topics

Why Lions are
leaving

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April 2026

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and lots more...

From the DG...

As our clubs traditionally go into a period of hibernation during December and January, it has been a relatively quiet two months. Nevertheless, there have been several important highlights worth sharing.

December Activities - Lyn and I visited two clubs during December — Albury and Lavington. At Albury, we were pleased to meet a potential new member: a Nepalese gentleman who has transferred to the region for work and was previously a member of the Lions Club of Wantirna. This is a promising opportunity for the club.

At Lavington, I had the privilege of presenting a 55-year service award to our oldest surviving Past District Governor, Lion Charles Leaney. It was an honour to recognise his extraordinary contribution to Lions and the community.

We also acknowledged the following Monarch recipients at Lavington Lions:

Lindsey Cutler - 40-year Monarch; Bill Van Noordennen - 30-year Monarch; Gordon Spencer - 25-year Monarch; Russell Douthat - 25-year Monarch; Sheena Gordon - 20-year Monarch; Susie Harrington - 15-year Monarch; Christopher Rane - 15-year Monarch; Malcolm Macvean - 10-year Monarch; Malcolm Lyons - 10-year Monarch; Jack Earl - 10-year Monarch.

Lion Portal Training - I organised a Lion Portal training session via Zoom with Past District Governor Lion Alice McDonald, Global Leadership Coordinator for New Zealand. The session was open to all members wishing to learn how to use the portal.

Unfortunately, only 12 out of 54 clubs attended. This level of participation is not acceptable. The District invests significant time and effort into organising these training opportunities, and they are essential for ensuring our clubs remain informed and effective. Further training sessions will be scheduled throughout the year. I strongly encourage all clubs to attend.

January Activities - In January, Lyn and I attended an informal meeting at the Myrtleford Lions Club. The purpose was to finalise the outcomes of the club's Boxing Day Rodeo, which, according to reports, was the most successful Rodeo the club has ever held.

Following the meeting, the President generously provided free pizzas and refreshments as a thank-you to members for their tireless work in the months leading up to the event and on the day itself. It was a wonderful gesture and a fitting way to celebrate a major achievement.

Paul Shortis

The passing of Dave leaves a big gap in the history of the Lions Club of Lavington.

A brief summary of his involvement

lets some of his dedication to the International Association and this Club be known to our members and this District 201V6.

Dave and Phyll came from Melbourne to Albury where he conducted a retail butcher shop in East Albury. Hence his nickname of "butch".

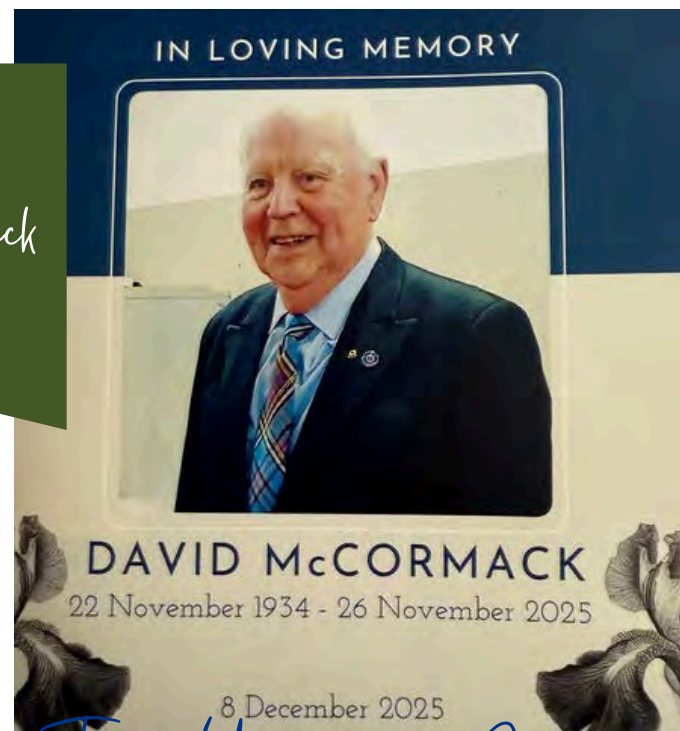
Both were active members of the Scottish Pipe and Drums with Dave being a drummer and Phyll

as a piper. Initially he was a member of Albury Lions but transferred to Lavington and his club history shows evidence of service to the Club and District including Zone Chairman.

Over many years he served as a Board member in various portfolios including secretary and three terms as president. He worked on many club projects including the kiosk and in particular had ten years active service to the important public welfare "Vital Call" project. In addition, Dave dedicated his time and service to the District project of Junior Public Speaking Competition. He and Phyll were instrumental in this project involving many schools and literally hundreds of students. The culmination of Dave's involvement was when one of our Lavington contestants was judged as the Victorian Lions Clubs state champion.

In recognition of his dedication and devotion to serving the community he received prestigious awards being a Leo Tyquin Award, a Chris August Award and Lions Clubs International Melvin Jones Award. All of his life he was supported by his wife Lion Phyll.

Vale to a true Lion who lived the motto of "We Serve"



Thank You for your Service

Why do Lions Quit

*Prepared by Lion Richard Stevenson,
Global Lions Forum Admin*

Brief Overview: Why Lions Are Leaving Their Clubs and How This Was Determined.

This analysis is based on a large open discussion in the Global Lions Forum, a worldwide online community of approximately 29,000 Lions. A single question – “What are the primary reasons for Lions leaving their clubs?” – generated several hundred comments and replies within a short period of time. While this was not a formal survey or random sample, the volume, diversity, and consistency of responses across countries and leadership levels make the findings highly informative. The comments were consolidated, thematically coded, and summarized by ChatGPT using qualitative analysis. The value of this data lies not in statistical precision, but in the convergence of independent voices identifying the same issues across cultures and geographies.

Two Major Reasons Lions Are Leaving

Toxic internal culture and poor relationships - This was the single most dominant theme, representing roughly 40–50 percent of substantive comments. Lions most frequently cited conflict, cliques, bullying, disrespect, favoritism, poor leadership, and unresolved misconduct as the primary reasons for leaving. These are overwhelmingly club-controllable factors. The data indicate that Lions are not leaving because of service fatigue, but because the internal club environment becomes unhealthy and emotionally unsustainable.

Failure to modernize and engage members meaningfully - The second most common theme, representing roughly 25–30 percent of comments, focused on outdated and disengaging club practices. Lions described boring or overly formal meetings, resistance to change, excessive talking and too little doing, and poor use of members' time. This theme is almost entirely within the control of individual clubs. Members were not rejecting service; they were rejecting a club experience that no longer felt relevant, efficient, or meaningful.

Methodological Summary

- Data source: Open discussion in a 29,000-member global Lions community
- Sample: Several hundred voluntary responses from multiple countries and leadership levels
- Method: Qualitative thematic coding and consolidation by ChatGPT
- Nature of data: Directional, not statistical; categories overlap and respondents cited multiple reasons
- Strength of findings: High consistency of themes across independent voices worldwide

Final Insight

Across this large and diverse population, the evidence is clear. The primary drivers of attrition are not age, death, or loss of interest in service. They are organizational and cultural failures at the club level. At least two thirds of the reasons Lions leave are within the control of clubs themselves. Retention, not recruitment, is the central challenge.

The last 20% were random things typically beyond the control of the clubs, such as health, death, moving, aging out, etc.

After over 550 comments from Lions and former Lions, we can answer the question of why Lions quit their clubs

#1 Club environment is uncomfortable (50%)

#2 Club will not allow change (30%)

Something to think about....

Finley Lions

Finley Lions Club members have been keeping themselves busy over the last few months with various community projects. Starting back in early September at the Finley Agricultural Show, six members carried out the Lions section of the School Steer competition, which involved setting up scales and recording the weights of the cattle. On the Sunday afternoon two members ran the show bar in the Bob Close Pavilion, giving the Show Society committee the opportunity to relax and unwind after a busy day.

Later that month the Lions Club teamed up with the Southern Riverina Vehicle and Machinery Club to provide catering at their annual Show and Shine event. Twelve Lions members ensured there was plenty of food and drink available to all participants and spectators.

The 20th of December saw the Lions Club once again support the Finley Chamber of Commerce with their annual Finley Christmas Extravaganza at Railway Park. Fifteen Lions and partners were in attendance during the evening to provide a BBQ service to hungry families.

Following the serious bushfire at Goomalibee in late December, six Lions club members answered the call to provide an evening meal for BlazeAid volunteers in that area. This was an ideal opportunity for the members to display their culinary skills in an environment which was outside their regular comfort zone.



Junior Public Speaking 2026

Introducing the topics for 2026...drum roll please.....ta daaa.....

Forms, information for school, etc are all being updated on the website, so check it out and download what you need!

A girl and a boy are standing next to a large sign. The sign has the Lions Junior Public Speaking logo at the top, followed by 'Years 3 & 4'. The text on the sign reads: 'If you could go on a holiday anywhere in Australia, where would you go and why? Tell us about it... e.g. What can you see and what would you do there?'.

Lions Junior Public Speaking
Years 3 & 4
If you could go on a holiday anywhere in Australia, where would you go and why?
Tell us about it...
e.g. What can you see and what would you do there?

A boy is holding a sign that says 'Lions Junior Public Speaking'. Below the sign, the text reads: 'Club Registrations due by 31st May 2026'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'district 201V6' and a small globe icon.

Lions Junior Public Speaking
Club Registrations due by 31st May 2026
district 201V6

A girl and a boy are standing next to a large sign. The sign has the Lions Junior Public Speaking logo at the top, followed by 'Years 5 & 6'. The text on the sign reads: 'If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (a real person past or present), who would it be, and why, and what would you serve them for dinner? Hint: You will need to research this person to find out about their life.'

Lions Junior Public Speaking
Years 5 & 6
If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (a real person past or present), who would it be, and why, and what would you serve them for dinner?
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Moama Lions

New Venue a Winner: Moama Lions Carols by Candlelight Brings Joy to the Recreation Reserve - Families Celebrate a Magical Night Filled with Song and Laughter, Festive Cheer at Moama Recreation Reserve

What a wonderful night we had at this year's Moama Christmas Carols! We gathered on the main oval at Moama Recreation Reserve, as we have outgrown the Kerrabee Soundshell—and what a fantastic decision that turned out to be. On Sunday 7 December, families, friends, and neighbours came together to celebrate, and many organisers agreed it was our best turnout yet!

Safe, Spacious, and Fun for Everyone - Our Lions Club of Moama carols committee shared: "The carols on Sunday night went terrific. The new location at Moama Recreation Reserve was much better because it was safer. Kids could run around and play and there was no traffic around." The open space meant plenty of room for everyone to relax, picnic, and enjoy the festivities. We estimate well over 1,800+ people came along—our biggest crowd ever! We're already looking forward to holding the carols at the recreation reserve again next year.

A Night of Wonderful Entertainment - This year's entertainment, organised by Dillmac Entertainment, was a real treat. The younger Dillmac students shone on stage, and we were delighted to hear four choirs filling the night air with music: Moama Grammar junior choir, Singergy, the Bellas, and We are Vivid's Silent Voices group. And thanks to Radio EMFM, friends and family in our local area, aged care homes and family as far away as Townsville could listen in live!

Liz Dillon, principal teacher at Dillmac Entertainment, summed up the mood perfectly: "The night went fantastically, really good, the performances were amazing." One of the night's highlights? The Moama Grammar junior choir and the Bellas joining forces for a spectacular rendition of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. The Dillmac kids led a 'Hi-Five' style performance, singing and dancing out front—just as Santa himself arrived!





Moama Lions

For the first time ever, our carols featured a live band, with Chris McDonald treating everyone to Paul Kelly's 'How to Make Gravy'. Not quite a Christmas carol, but a Christmas classic nonetheless, and everyone over 40 was up and dancing!

Santa's Visit - As the evening drew to a close, anticipation bubbled amongst the children. The night had been filled with laughter and carols, but everyone knew the highlight was yet to come. They were waiting for the moment they'd all been promised.

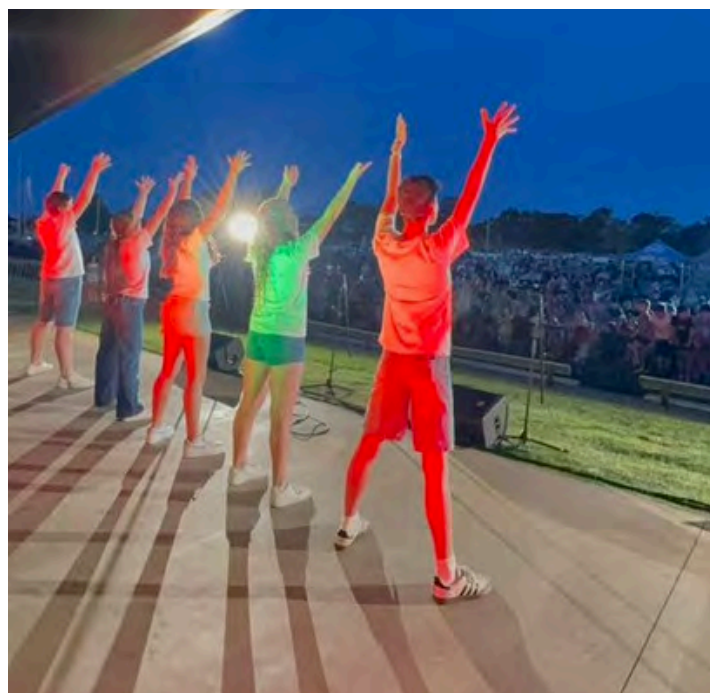
At last, with a hearty "Ho Ho Ho!" , Santa made his grand entrance. The children were delighted to see him and jumping with joy.

As lolly bags were handed out, it was clear the night had become an unforgettable memory. Santa's promised visit had brought joy and wonder, leaving everyone happy and excited. The children, clutching their lolly bags, waved goodbye to Santa, already dreaming of his return next year.

Music, Dancing and Community Spirit - Thank you to all Lions members who assisted in organising the carols this year. Many hands made it easier, and the event was a wonderful success. Your dedication and teamwork brought the community together and made the evening memorable.

We'd also like to give a special shout out to Dillmac tutors, as well as both present and past students, for their incredible performances and for providing us with such great entertainment. Your dedication, talent and enthusiasm have truly made a remarkable impression on all of us. Thanks for creating unforgettable moments and bringing the community together.

We appreciate everyone who contributed—whether you helped with setting up, singing, behind the scenes, or simply lending a hand when needed. Looking forward to another fantastic celebration next year.



Moama Lions

Annual Lions BBQ - Our BBQ was a great success. The Lions team worked tirelessly throughout the night, cooking up classic favourites such as sausages and chips, which proved to be a hit with everyone in attendance

The event not only provided a great meal but also strengthened community spirit. Attendees appreciated the Lions' dedication and enjoyed the opportunity to be able to purchase tasty food. Despite a tiring evening, everyone felt satisfied and proud of the successful turnout.

With such positive feedback, the annual BBQ continues to be a cherished tradition. The Lions look forward to hosting again next year, aiming to build on this year's success and keep bringing people together.

Thank You to Our Supporters - Of course, none of this would be possible without our fantastic sponsors: Murray River Council, Moama RSL, Rich River Golf Club, and Moama Bowling Club. We're grateful to all the local businesses who donated prizes for the Lions Club raffle, too. Also thank you to the staff at Murray River Council for their wonderful support in working with Moama Lions to organise the carols.

What an incredible way to kick off the festive season. We can't wait do it all again next year at the Moama Christmas Carols—here's to more music, more laughter, and more community spirit!



Lavington Lions

President Susie Harrington was delighted to welcome new Lions Ron Lynch and Steve Considine to our Club recently. They are looking forward to joining in with the many Club projects going on at the moment.

Welcome



DISTRICT HISTORY

GOT A PASSION FOR HISTORY?

Calling all history buffs! I'm looking for people with a love of history, research and storytelling to collaborate on an upcoming project. Contact me via email for more info if you're interested!

district 201V6

Established 1978



v6roar@gmail.com

District Learning Opportunities...

Upcoming In Person and/or Online Learning Opportunities



Creativity

How to use Canva to create social media content

How to use Canva to create posters and advertising flyers



V6 PR Info Session

Monday, 16 February 2026

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (AEST)

Meeting link:

[Click HERE to join the online session](#)

Interested in having a session at your next Zone Meeting? Maybe your Club would like to hold an in person session for members. Let me know - v6roar@gmail.com.

Tungamah Lions & Leos

AUSTRALIA DAY AT TUNGAMAH 2026 - Once again, over one hundred townsfolk flocked to the Lions Park by the Boosey Creek with another celebration of what it means to be an Australian on Australia Day. By 8 a.m. the Lions had cooked a great breakfast, free to everyone. Hot chocolate and coffee was being provided by Brewit and the annual event was well and truly underway.

Les Harrison welcomed everyone along and then handed over the mike to Michael Barry. All puns unintended.

Representatives of the Event of the Year were then called forward after a short address and welcome to country by Amanda Finn from the Moira Shire. The event of the year award was then presented to John Tyrrell who was in charge of such as large and happy event. It is certainly something we will never forget.

There were four nominees for Citizen of the Year. Ken Dodd, who has done so much for cricket, football and fire brigade, Heather Tyrrell who works for the Kickstart RV friendly park and does so much for the local primary school, Dianne Sampson bowls and the cemetery trust plus Pam O'Dwyer for years of dedication to the CFA plus the school.

After much consultation with the Moira Shire, dual awards were presented to Pam O'Dwyer and Dianne Sampson.

Dianne has been a local resident her whole life. She married a local farmer and has supported events for the local farmers. She is a life member of the Tungamah Bowls Club and is still an active bowler. In addition to that she runs the local cemetery and is a great help to grieving family members. She organises the plot, gets it prepared and cared for both before and after. Her confidentiality is so appreciated by her families.

She has been a great role model in our local community, involving herself in the Church, Kindergarten, Primary School, Hall committee, Footy and Netball Club and the Historical Society.

Both ladies were very popular winners and were humbled by their recognition.

Tony Figgins made a brief comeback to sound systems and we thank Tony for that. Thank you Jai for the hot beverages, and also John and Heather Tyrrell for all the nuts and bolts in making the day a success.

The Lions did a great job with brekkie and Michael was polished in his MC work.

Thank you Moira Shire for the grant and of course, Jason and Donna for making everything work so well, food wise.





Cobram Lions

Tonight we had the pleasure to welcome Zone chairman John Wiernert to the Lions Club of Cobrams meeting to induct Sherylyn Argus into the Lions Club. We welcome Sherylyn to the Lions Family.

Cobram Lions Members have been actively involved in locating and distributing the funds to the impacted residents affected by the Fires at Yarraweyah and Muckatah. Cobram Lions members were more than happy to be part of the combined Lions Club team appointed to help the residents. Working united together to assist those in our community.



Cobram, Strathmerton and Katamatite Lions worked together under the guidance of Mark Nordby who coordinated the clubs activities. Cobram Lions members have been actively collecting donations in Cobram, which we will commence distributing this week. Thank you very much to our wonderful community for your support and generosity.



WOW Moira Shires Community Event of the Year winners. For the The Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour.

What an Honour to be apart of the Cobram Lions Club, and to have had the Pleasure to be involved with organising the Tour.

Thank you for our nomination Cobram.

A big Thank you To our wonderful community for helping make the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour a success. Thank you Lexus and to the Melbourne Cup Tour team.

Thank you Cobram.

Beechworth Lions

Lions Club of Beechworth Christmas End-of-Year BBQ - Members of Lions Club of Beechworth and friends attended the home of Lions Graeme and Lesley Smart for a Christmas End-of-Year BBQ. We thank Lesley and Graeme for their hospitality which has become a Beechworth Lions Club end-of-year ritual. A fantastic night enjoyed by all.

Lions Club of Beechworth Sausage Sizzle - On Saturday 13th December Lions Club of Beechworth, with the support of the Community Bank Beechworth & District (Bendigo Bank) held a Sausage Sizzle and recruitment drive. Thank you, all those Beechworth Lions Club members that gave up their Saturday morning from 9am to 2pm to assist with this endeavour.



INSPIRE SERVICE 2026 & BEYOND

74TH LIONS MD 201 CONVENTION
22-25 MAY 2026



ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA | www.lionsclubs.org.au/convention

Yarrawonga Lions

Most Lions are busy during January and Yarrawonga Lions are no exception. The highlight of course was the opportunity to present a cheque for \$20,000 to PDG treasurer Lynne Fredericks as a donation to Lions V6 Division to assist their wonderful Disaster Relief Fund. Good timing indeed with the weather events, including the nasty bushfires, that have devastated parts of our area over the past couple of months.

The 3 day All Stars Junior Tennis Tournament was held in Yarrawonga and once again Yarrawonga Lions manned the tennis club's well equipped canteen trying to ensure none of the players, officials, or supporters went hungry.

The tournament went without a hitch, well certainly from our viewpoint, and we look forward to joining with them again next year. I should add that I was again impressed with the courtesy and manners of the young tennis players. They are a credit to their club, their parents and their sport.

The Lions Assistance Dogs team gave Yarrawonga Lions the opportunity to name their latest Assistance Dog in recognition of the donation received following our Dashie Cup event in November. As a result we were thrilled to receive a photo of a cheeky looking Tenterfield Terrier pup we have named Melvin.

All of this was in addition to our weekly K-Hub and Bunnings duties. Thank you to all of the Lions, and helpers, that contributed to the above activities as well as the weekly sausage sizzles at K-Hub and Bunnings.





We hope 2026 is now well underway for you and that your Club has settled back into the rhythm of a new year.

As always, we are grateful to have Lions across Australia alongside us. February provides an important opportunity to focus on hearing awareness in the lead up to Hearing Awareness Week and World Hearing Day on March 3rd. Hearing loss is a cause deeply connected to the work of Lions Assistance Dogs as it marks our founding program that we commenced with back in 1980. Hearing loss affects a significant number of Australians and, without the right support, can lead to isolation and reduced confidence in everyday life. Through education, early intervention, and access to the right resources, we can help reduce these impacts and provide security and independence for individuals and families.

Lions Assistance Dogs is proud to train Hearing Assistance Dogs that alert their recipients to vital common sounds such as doorbells, alarms, and phones, while also aiding in independence and security. Alongside this work, we encourage Lions Clubs to engage with hearing health resources available through audiology providers, community organisations, and local services, helping to spread awareness within your communities.

As we look ahead, we encourage you to mark National Hearing Dog Day on 19 April on your calendar. A day created by Lions Assistance Dogs, it affords opportunities to raise awareness, spark conversations, and celebrate the life-changing impact of Hearing Assistance Dogs.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us at development@lionsassistedogs.com.au



Aussie Crunch White Chocolate Coconut Slice

Ingredients - Base:

- 1 cup rolled oats.
- 1 cup self raising flour.
- 1 cup brown sugar.
- 1 cup desiccated coconut.
- 125 g unsalted butter, melted.
- 1 tbsp golden syrup.

Topping:

- 200 g white chocolate, chopped.

Directions:

Prepare the tin:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C fan forced.
2. Line a 20 cm by 30 cm slice tin with baking paper.

Make the base:

3. In a bowl, combine the rolled oats, self raising flour, brown sugar, and desiccated coconut.
4. Add the melted butter and golden syrup, and mix until well combined.
5. Press the mixture firmly into the prepared tin.

Bake:

6. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until golden and firm.
7. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely in the tin.

Add the topping:

8. Melt the white chocolate gently until smooth.
9. Spread evenly over the cooled base.
10. Allow to set at room temperature or in the fridge.



Gave the date!

CALLING ALL LADY
LIONS & LIONS
PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY -
FUN DAY / WEEKEND ESCAPE
7 - 8TH MARCH 2026

Get ready for a vibrant, joy-filled celebration!

Leave the fellas & family at home and join us for a fabulous weekend (or a fun day out - yet to be confirmed) which will involve wine, good food, friendship, laughter, creativity, and unforgettable moments with an amazing community of women.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY **MARCH 8**

Relax, create, sip, and celebrate **YOU**.

More details coming soon - but trust us, you won't want to miss this!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND STAY TUNED!

Expressions of interest for a district event for international Women's Day are now being taken. To be held on the weekend of 7/8th March somewhere in the District - contact Jo via email - v6roar@gmail.com to save a seat. Spots are limited, but guaranteed to be a great weekend.

Volunteer clubs relax commitments in attempt to arrest declining membership

By Erin Somerville - ABC Goulburn Murray

Few items bear the proud hallmarks of grassroots fundraising like the humble barbecue. The smell of caramelising onions and the pop of sausages has helped Myrtleford's Rotary Club raise thousands of dollars from the well-worn plate of a barbecue it inherited from the local Apex Club, which folded more than a decade ago.

But the time has come for that workhorse barbecue to change hands again.



The Myrtleford Rotary Club's barbecue has been passed on to the local Lions Club. (ABC News: Erin Somerville)

Myrtleford Rotary Club has made the tough decision to close after age ruthlessly stripped its membership down to just eight. After 72 years of operation, the group's members have faced the emotional but inevitable end. "I don't have the answer, but I do really think we need to look at how we operate, how Rotary operates, and how all service clubs operate," former member Gail Roberston said. "If the family dynamics have changed, we have to change too."



Relics from Myrtleford's folded Apex Club. (ABC News: Erin Somerville)

It is not clear how other clubs — many of which have served the community for decades — will continue in the changing space of volunteerism. Some members blame the advancement of technology and social media. **"Our connectivity now has just changed so dramatically — it's all in your pocket," former member Alma Adams said.** "That issue of going to meet people over a dinner ... it just doesn't happen anymore."

Recruitment struggles - The keys to the Myrtleford Rotary Club shed have been handed over to Myrtleford's Lions Club. It boasts 33 members, a relatively healthy number compared to other clubs. But recruiting remains a challenge. "We are an aging services club ... we have to find those things that we do well," said Chris Buono, Myrtleford Lions Club secretary. Tim Cossor's key role in the club is to recruit new members, and he finds a gentle approach works best for the younger generation, including losing traditional meeting obligations.

"They think it's a huge commitment," Mr Cossor said. "We just want you to do what you can do."

Staple clubs trial change - It is not a new phenomenon, with volunteer clubs across Australia struggling to recruit members in a decline accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ninety-two Rotary clubs closed between 2020 and 2025, with average membership sitting at 22, about 10 below the global average. Lions Australia has also seen membership fall over the past 15 years. Both organisations say the shift reflects changing attitudes to volunteering, with people increasingly seeking flexible, interest-based involvement. "This gives people in the community a place to meet like-minded people and make a difference in meaningful ways," Lions Australia executive officer Rob Oerlemans said.

Continued.....

Rotary has moved into new territory, establishing 21 clubs since 2020. "Many smaller clubs have seen their members age out or, sadly, pass away, but in recent years, the development of new-style clubs are attracting younger members," said Liz McDougall, Rotary South Pacific public image chair.

Improving the 'volunteer experience'.

The national peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Australia, said volunteering remained central to many Australian communities, but the way people volunteered had changed. "People are just grabbing the opportunity, grabbing some friends and going and doing things that they are either interested in or need to be done without going through organisations," Volunteering Australia chief executive Mark Pearce said. He said organised charities and clubs remained central to identifying and meeting community needs.



Chris Buono and Tim Cossor are often considering ways to recruit more members. (ABC News: Erin Somerville)

"In order for volunteering to survive and thrive into the future, we need to engage with volunteers in a way that makes sense to them," he said. "We need to look really closely at improving the volunteer experience."

Service Reporting...

Our LCIF Weeks of Service continues in the new year with another global initiative to meet community needs for hunger taking place from January 3rd to 11th. This will cover food security and community well-being through the organisation of local projects supported by global resources which address global concerns to combat hunger. No doubt many clubs plan and organise these types of activities already, so we need to ensure our stories are shared with other Lions clubs and the general community.

From April 18th to 26th the focus will be on Environment, which will cover a broad range of activities for clubs to participate in. The Lions Green Canopy project, which was launched by Lions Australia, is a great way to get out and about and make a difference to your neighbourhood.

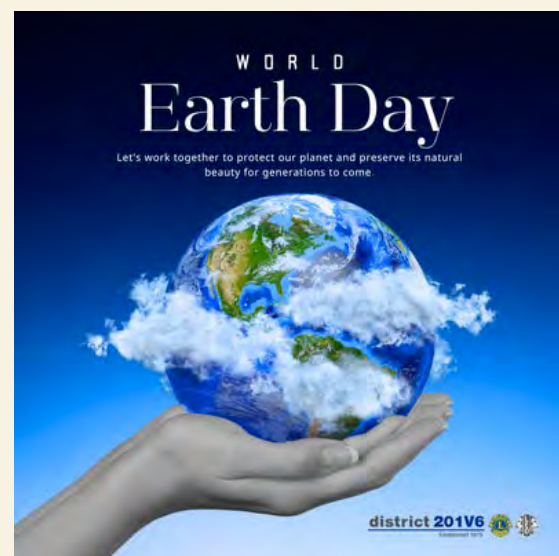
As the environment is the major concern for people under 40, this project is an incredible opportunity to engage younger volunteers and strengthen our clubs for the future. Even if your club meets only a few of these goals, you're on the path to building a stronger, more engaged group – and the ripple effect of your service will reach farther than you may ever think.

Keep up the good work!

Regards

Lion Warwick

V6 Service Coordinator





“Lions on Safari: A Service Adventure”

This coming March, join Lions on Safari: A Service Adventure—a month-long campaign showcasing the incredible work Lions are doing across Australia.

We invite you to join the adventure! Organise or participate in events happening nationwide and help us raise awareness for the causes we champion. It’s a fantastic way to highlight our impact and inspire new volunteers.

How to Get Involved - Looking for ideas to celebrate Lions on Safari and important dates in March 2026? Here are some suggestions to inspire your Lions Club events:

- **Bunnings Barbecue:** Partner with your local Bunnings for a barbecue or host a family-friendly event.
- **Clean Up Australia Day** (March 1): Organise rubbish clean-ups, recycling projects, or environmental awareness campaigns to engage the community in caring for the planet.
- **International Women’s Day** (March 8): Organise impactful events and fundraisers that empower and support women in their communities.
- **National Leo Day** (March 16): Celebrate the amazing impact Leos are making in their communities!
- **International Day of Happiness** (March 20): Organise events that spread joy and promote well-being, like games, celebrations, or activities that get people smiling.
- **Harmony Week** (March 16 – 22): Encourage everyone to wear orange in support of cultural diversity.

With these ideas, your Lions Club can make March a month to remember. The possibilities for Lions on Safari are endless!

Looking for PR materials?

Visit our [Lions Shop](#) or [click here](#) to access free downloadable resources.

OR

Design Your Own

OR

Contact the District PR to help you create images just for your event or club.



What They're talking about on Social Media...

Kerang dancing up a storm for Nathalia fundraiser.

11 Barham Rock and Rollers had a great time at Numurkah dancing at the Lions Club of Nathalia fundraiser event. This year the club donated \$3500 to V6 Foundation which will go to people affected by the recent bushfires which unfortunately are still burning.

We really enjoyed ourselves dancing to Rusty Gates aka Bookman on Friday and then to Cobra 45's on the Saturday with DJ rocket providing music during the breaks. Congratulations to Lions Stuart and Elvie Barnes for their organisation together with President PDG Lion Omeni Ndlova. It was such a worthwhile event and it makes me proud to be a Lion!



Check out the **Green Canopy Project** Newsletter here:

<https://lions201v6.org.au/?p=4546&preview=true>



ANZI 2026 - Newsletter here:

<https://www.lionsanzipacificforum.com/newsletters>



74TH LIONS MD 201 CONVENTION
22 - 25 MAY 2026
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MD Convention Adelaide - check out more information here:

<https://lions2026andbeyond.com.au/>



Tocumwal Lions Club

Made Baked & Grown MARKET

Saturday, 7 February 2026

8:30am - 1:00pm

Lions Function Rooms, 5-7 Adam St



Gold Coin Entry
Morning Tea Available

Enquiries to Carol - 0417 868 498





There has recently been an increasing number of phone, text, social media and email scams using the LCI or LCIF name or logo. These scams are aiming to trick people into revealing their personal and financial information, leading to identity theft. Please read this blog to learn how to protect yourself from these types of scams.

CLICK HERE for more information



Thank you President AP for this call to action! Lions & Leos across the globe can organize environmental projects and invite their neighbors to roll up their sleeves and help. Let's do this!



Congratulations Zoey! Our National Peace Poster Winner 🌍🏆

Sponsored by the Lions Club of Rosedale Springwood in QLD, Zoey has been named the 2025 Lions International Peace Poster National Winner.

What They're talking about on Social Media...

This comment from Lion Alvin Louie really nails it: I just completed Regional Lions Leadership Training with: • Solid curriculum • Capable, committed instructors • Seasoned Lions preparing for higher leadership.

Yet none of the following appeared in the formal criteria or modules: • Toxic club culture • Conflict avoidance and favoritism • Bullying, cliques, and disengagement • Resistance to change • Emotional burnout and silent exits.

And yet...Those exact issues dominated the side conversations, hallway talk, and shared frustrations. That gap is not accidental. The Elephant in the Room.

Lions leadership training focuses heavily on: • Structure • Process • Roles • Compliance • Tools • Procedures. But it largely avoids self-examination of organizational dysfunction. Why? Because culture is messy. Because naming dysfunction creates discomfort. Because acknowledging failure requires humility. Because once spoken, it demands change—not just training.

So instead, the system teaches people how to operate within the structure, not how to repair what's broken inside it. Why We're Stuck at ~1.4 Million Members.

Here's the hard truth: You cannot grow an organization whose culture repels the people it recruits. Recruitment brings people in. Culture decides whether they stay. Lions keeps investing in: • Recruiting techniques • Leadership pipelines • Training ladders. But it underinvests in: • Psychological safety • Conflict resolution • Cultural health diagnostics • Accountability for behavior • Modern relevance of the club experience.

So the organization runs in place: • New members in • Frustrated members out • Net zero growth.

1.4 million becomes a ceiling, not a milestone. Why Training Feels "Good" but Changes Little. The training is good. The instructors are good. The intentions are good. But the training: • Assumes a healthy culture • Avoids confronting power dynamics • Doesn't challenge entrenched behaviors • Doesn't ask why Lions quit.

So leaders graduate knowing: • What to do • What role they hold • What procedures exist. But not: • How to stop people from leaving • How to address toxic behavior • How to evolve club culture • How to create belonging
The Quiet Irony. The most experienced Lions—the very people being trained—already know what's broken. They whisper it: • at lunch • in the parking lot • during training.

from the Global Lions Forum Facebook page

Helpful Links

District Governor

Paul Shortis

0407 854 829 ~ dg.v6@lions.org.au

Cabinet Secretary

Lee Walkington

0400 576 383 ~ cabsec.v6@lions.org.au

Cabinet Treasurer

Belinda Cooper-Green

0479 114 275 ~ cabtreas.v6@lions.org.au

Welfare Officer

Sandra Temple

0467 259 722

rev.sandra.temple@gmail.com

PR & Website Chairperson

Jo Guthrie

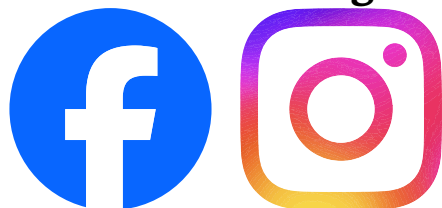
0428 366 220 ~ v6roar@gmail.com

Information Technology (IT) / Website

Aydan Stark – Beswick

0484 249 521

Are YOU following us....



Facebook

<http://facebook.com/201V6Lions>

Member's Only Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/676430540448974>

Instagram

[Instagram.com/lionsdistrictv6](https://www.instagram.com/lionsdistrictv6)

(@lionsdistrictv6)

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

2nd National RA Day (Lions Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation)

4th - World Cancer Day

11th - Safer Internet Day

15th - International Childhood Cancer Day

16th - ONLINE PR SESSION

17th - Random Acts of Kindness Day (9-15th

Random Acts of Kindness Week)

22nd - 3rd Cabinet Meeting (Wangaratta)

24th - National Family Drug Support Day

MARCH

Lions on Safari Month - Lions Awareness Month

2nd - Clean up Australia Day

3rd - World Hearing Day

8th - International Women's Day

10-16th - Glaucoma Awareness Week

15th - Leo of the Year District Final

20th - International Day of Happiness

22nd - Leo of the Year State Final



didn't see
YOUR
club in the latest
edition of....



THE ROAR
V6 District Newsletter

deadline is 28th of each month



WEBSITE
lions201v6.org.au

Special "Members Only Area"



Australian Lions Foundation Ltd

ALF ALERT

January 2026

Eastern Australia Bushfire and Flooding Appeal

Australia is a land of beauty and extremes—sunburnt plains, rugged mountains, and, as Dorothea Mackellar wrote, 'drought and flooding rains.' Today, those words ring true as communities in North Queensland battle devastating floods and Victoria faces catastrophic bushfires.

We can all be grateful for the work of our Lions Clubs supporting the emergency efforts today, knowing that they will continue to serve in the ongoing recovery.

The Australian Lions Foundation (ALF) has launched an Emergency Disaster Appeal to fund relief efforts for these disasters. Every dollar you give goes directly to supporting Lions Clubs in affected areas—and any surplus will be reserved for future emergencies.

Emergency and Disaster Relief grants are also available for clubs supporting the relief effort and we encourage you to apply for such grants to assist your efforts.

<https://alf.org.au/grants/disaster-emergency-grants/>

For Clubs:

Contribute to the appeal via:

ALF Ltd Emergency Disaster Appeals

BSB: 036-048 | Account #: 440704

Use your club number as the reference and email alf.treasurer@lions.org.au

For Individuals:

Make a personal donation and receive a tax-deductible receipt:

ALF Emergency Disaster Appeals

BSB: 036-001 | Account #: 474157

Use your initial and surname as the reference and email alf.treasurer@lions.org.au

Thank you for the work that you do and stay safe.

PDG Lesley Lyons

ALF Chairperson



Australian Lions Foundation Ltd
"Helping Lions help their community."
www.alf.org.au





THE LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 37 166 954 081
201Q3



PO BOX 392
MORAYFIELD QLD 4506
P: 07 5432 9292
M: 0409 698 132
E: r4scaboolture@gmail.com

PO BOX 3021
CLONTARF MDC QLD 4019
E: recycleforsightlionsclub@gmail.com
M: 0401 316 935

29 January 2026

All clubs,

During the Xmas break, we have received several communiqué's, requesting clarification of whether Lions Recycle for Sight Australia has closed its operation.

To the contrary! **wherever** this information is coming from, it is **completely incorrect**.

(The only time Lions Recycle for Sight Australia has closed its doors, since opening, is for the Xmas break each year)

Therefore! Lions Recycle for Sight Australia would like all our Clubs, to continue supporting and Promoting Lions Recycle for Sight Australia. This is a true Worldwide Lions Service Project helping many thousands in Developing Nations, again! we ask all clubs to continue their collection of Glasses and forward them to our processing centre in Queensland, using the Reply Paid:

REPLY PAID 3021
Lions Recycle for Sight Australia Inc.
PO Box 3021
CLONTARF DC 4019

Yours in Lionism

PDG Graeme Emery
Manager
Caboolture Branch
Lions Recycle for Sight

Grants available to back rural mental health

Up to \$20,000 in funding for initiatives in farming and rural regions

14 January 2026: FRRR's [In a Good Place](#) (IAGP) program is offering grants of up to \$20,000 for community-led projects that support the mental health and wellbeing of farmers, farming communities and people living in remote, rural and regional places.

Community groups and not-for-profits (NFPs) are invited to apply for grants from a funding pool of \$200,000 for initiatives that improve mental health education, build community connections to foster wellbeing and assist local non-clinical services.

These grants are for local organisations to help their community build up the knowledge, skills and networks to support their mental health and wellbeing and to make sure locals know they don't need to go it alone.

Jill Karena, Head of Granting at FRRR, said when you live in the country or on a remote property, it can be especially tough to put up your hand and ask for help when you're not in the best place mentally.

"There are so many great things about living life on the land, but limited access to information, resources and services, as well as the geographical isolation, can make it particularly difficult to look after your mental health," Ms Karena said.

"This is one of the reasons why community groups are so important to the vitality of remote, rural and regional Australia. Because they are on the ground in these communities and out talking to farmers, running wellbeing programs and filling the gaps in mental health services.

"Mental health is a whole-of-community concern. This funding enables NFPs to provide locals with resources and opportunities to connect, develop skills, increase understanding and reduce stigma. They can also use the grants to create safe spaces where people can have honest conversations and be heard."

Thanks to FRRR's donor partners, there are two streams of funding available:

1. **Community wellbeing:** for projects that focus on strengthening the general mental health and wellbeing of people in remote, rural and regional communities.
2. **Farmers and farming communities:** for projects specifically supporting the mental health and wellbeing of farmers and the communities they live in.

The types of projects IAGP grants have previously funded include volunteer training in mental health first aid, community events that encourage locals to connect and feel less isolated, inviting a guest speaker to share their mental health journey and personal wellbeing strategies with the community, and setting up an accessible safe space where locals can talk about their own mental health concerns with trained peer volunteers.



Media Release Mental health grants available for farming regions and rural communities

“Together with our funding partners, we look forward to being inspired by the project ideas put forward by NFPs and community groups who are out on the ground, proactively supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their local community,” Ms Karena said.

FRRR will host a free, online **grantseeker workshop** on **Thursday, 22 January**, for NFPs and community groups wanting to learn more about the program. To register, visit FRRR’s website.

Applications are currently open and close on 19 February at 5pm AEDT. Funding will be announced late June.

To learn more and apply, visit: <https://frrr.org.au/funding/in-a-good-place/>.

In a Good Place is collaboratively supported by FRRR’s partners, APS Foundation and CCI Giving; Well Thanks Foundation; the Farmer & Farming Community Funder Collective consisting of Macdoch Foundation, Jibb Foundation, Morris Family Foundation, Norman Family Foundation and Rebecca Gorman & John Sevier; and general donations.

FRRR would welcome more partners for this program. Potential supporters should contact partnerships@frrr.org.au or call 03 5430 2399.

ENDS

For media enquiries

Rachel Gemmell – 0428 998 279 or news@frrr.org.au

About FRRR

FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal - phonetically: F-triple-R) supports remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to be vibrant, resilient, empowered and sustainable. We work alongside communities to catalyse locally led solutions, especially in areas facing systemic challenges. To do this, we connect resources, build enduring local skills and knowledge, and reshape how rural and remote Australia is seen, valued and supported. Established in 2000, it has since delivered more than \$213 million to more than 16,000 projects. Learn more: frrr.org.au